

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 10, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

A remote control/storage device 242 communicates with the computer 240 via a wireless link such as via the IR port 215 or a radio link employing an antenna 243. Referring to Figs. 2A, 2B, and 3, the remote control/storage device 242 includes a console 320 and a plurality of beads 310 and 312 (collectively referred to as beads 314, see FIG. 2B). The console has a transceiver 392 for communicating with the computer 240, an interface 318 for interoperating with beads 310, 312 (as discussed below), and a controller 391, preferably a programmable controller. Each bead 314 contains some means for distinguishing itself from the other beads 314. For example, there may be a chip with a unique identifier programmed into it combined with a transponder (collectively shown at 394). In an embodiment, the console 320 and beads 310, 312 are all linked by a string or chain 370. Each bead 310/312 is uniquely identified by a code. The code may be encoded as the value of a resistance incorporated in the bead 310, for example, encoded in a transponder device built into the bead 310,

or formed as a reflective pattern in the bead surface to be scanned by the console. Any of a variety of different mechanisms for making the beads ~~310-314~~ self-identifying may be used. Note that the bead's uniqueness may only be with respect to the particular console 320. All communications between the beads ~~310-314~~ and the outside world go through the console, in this embodiment, so as long as each bead ~~310-314~~ is distinguishable from the others and the console 320 is unique with respect to consoles of other users (e.g., using a serial number stored on a "smart chip"), then each bead can be unique. To make it easy for users, the beads could be sold with a color or color pattern, picture, shape or other characteristic that makes it unique and insures it can be distinguished from other beads on a string.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 11, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

In use, a link is generated between one of the beads ~~312-314~~ and the console 320. This link may be established, for example, by placing the bead ~~312-314~~ in a recess 375. Certain features associated with the bead's ~~312-314~~ meaning can then be accessed

based on the programming of either or both of the console 320 and/or the computer 240. When bead ~~312~~314 is placed in the console 320, the console reads the unique identifier of the bead and employs any of a variety of mechanisms for generating a user interface protocol as a result.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 13, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

The profile beads could be used in another way. Suppose a user has two profile beads, one for a friend, say a Bill bead 350 for Bill, and one for the user, Jean bead 345. The system (on computer 240, for example) may be programmed to generate a user interface that allows parts of the friend's profile to be combined with the profile of the owner of the console, namely Jean. To invoke this process, the Bill bead 350 might be pressed into the recess 375 followed by pressing the Jean bead 345 into the recess 375. In this way, manipulating the beads is a metaphor for a software process that is ~~to~~-desired to be invoked.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 16, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

In an embodiment, the data sets for each bead are stored on a network server and accessed through the console 320. The console may generate a uniform resource locator (URL) when activated to do so. Using the identification of one or more beads ~~310~~314 that have been associated with the action (by touching to the recess, for example), and if necessary the console's 320 own identification, the console can generate a unique URL or other kind of address. Once the address is generated, the data associated with the relevant bead or beads ~~310~~314 can be accessed to be modified, used, transferred, etc. In a data transfer operation, such as discussed with respect to Figs. 4 and 5, the data actually may flow from one server address to another server address or URL to which the respective consoles 322 and 324 point.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 17, line 12, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 9, in another embodiment, each bead 510, 550, 545, 540, 560, 565 has a display 570. Each bead may have an

internal or external switch that allows the display to be changed. For example, the bead could be soft with a pressure sensitive switch inside (not shown) which, when the bead is pinched, scrolls the display. The embodiment could be used in the following fashion to create a new profile. First, a bead to be used as a profile bead, e.g., Bill's bead 550, could be contacted to the console 520 recess 575. The console may be programmed to permit the user to modify or erase the contents of the Bill bead 550 profile. Assume the user indicates a desire to erase the profile on the Bill bead 550. The user may then take each bead in turn, select the particular item in each criterion bead by squeezing the respective criteria bead 510, 540, 560, 565 and, as each selected criterion is displayed, the criterion may be added to the Bill bead 550 profile by touching the respective criteria bead 510, 540, 560, 565 to the recess 575. For example, to add genre=comedy to the Bill bead 550, the Genre bead 560 would be pinched several times until the category "comedy" appeared in its display. Then the Genre bead 560 would be touched to the recess 575 and the comedy genre thereby added to the list. Another genre category could be added or

another criteria bead 510, 540, 565 could be selected and a selection from that list made.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 18, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment that uses beads with displays 570 and controls (not shown) and communication devices inside, data can be transferred from one bead 510, 550, 545, 540, 560, 565 to another by touching a sending bead to a receiving bead. In this case, the beads could be held together and data transferred between them by actuating the switch (not shown) on the sending bead. The console could register this by any of various means. For example, if all the beads are identified by a unique resistance, touching two beads together could short-circuit the resistances of one or more beads and one of the beads is effectively identified that in this way.

Referring to Fig. 10, a simple resistance network with each bead housing a pair of resistances, e.g., R1 and R0, connected serially by the bead string or chain 370 can be swapped into or out of the network by an internal single-pole double-throw switch. When a switch is in the normal position, the respective resistances R1-R6

are summed in the network by an ohmmeter 630. When a contact 601-606 of one bead is connected to a contact 601-606 of another bead, the respective resistances of the beads and all those between them fall out of the resistance-sum measured by the ohmmeter 630. So, for example, if the bead with R1 is touched to the bead with R4, the network consists of only resistances R1, R5, and R6. If the resistance values are chosen such that every pairing of contacts 601-606 results in a unique resistance sum being measured at the ohmmeter 630, and the resistance R0 is chosen so that its contribution to the network can always be distinguished, then the console 520 can determine which pair of beads are touching and which has its switch closed. For example, if there are ten beads and the beads have resistances ranging in integral units from 9-18 ohms and R0 has the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ ohm, then the pair that is shorted can be determined from the unique resistance sum of the network and the contribution of R0 can be identified. Other mechanisms for identifying which pair of beads is contacted with another are possible. For example, the console 320 could be provided with two recesses or two beads could be held in the user's hand and respective temperature sensors in each used to actuate a

transponder in each that is actuated only when the temperature of the beads is above a certain value. The essential purpose is that some physical association between the objects indicates to a control/storage device as a whole the user's intent to perform some operation with the data that corresponds to each bead.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 21, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

Note that although in the embodiments described above, data sets are associated with beads 310314, it is possible to associate data sets with any kind of object. They could be tokens, game pieces, small toys, building blocks, etc. The important feature is that data sets are associated with objects. Note also that while in the above embodiments, a recess 375 is used to interface the console 320 and a bead 310314, the interface could be established by any of a number of different devices. For example, the interfaced bead could be brought in proximity and connected via a wireless link. It could be pushed into a hole in the console or a placed in a pop-out basket of the console. The bead could be placed inside a trap in the console. Many different possibilities

exist and believed to be within the scope of the invention. Note that the above comments also apply to interfacing one bead with another as in the example discussed with respect to Fig. 10.